

# WHO IS THIS JESUS?

## The Coming of the King

### Introduction

#### Mark 1:1-15

**1. As you read the first three verses of the book, How do you feel? Has the author given us enough background information?**

*Mark starts right away into the ministry of Jesus. At first glance it feels like this Jesus came out of nowhere. Where is he from? Who are his parents? What is going on? But Mark carefully chooses Old Testament passages to connect Jesus to the promises of a coming King — who would be greater than any king before. We will dig into this together!*

**2. Describe the scene of John the Baptist and his ministry. What did he look like? Where did he preach? Who came to hear him? What was his message?**

*Answer these questions as a group. Really look at the paragraph and try to get a feel for what was happening. There has not been a prophet among God's people for 400 years. There is a sense of spiritual hunger. There is an anticipation that something is about to happen. "All the people from Judah and All Jerusalem" went to hear him... is this literal or figurative? This is figurative but means that all "kinds" of people were going — rich, poor, religious, non-religious — something is happening.*

**3. Verse 8 says, I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." What does this mean? What change does it signal?**

*The Old Covenant relationship between God and his people was based on symbols and rituals. They were physical pictures of spiritual realities. They looked forward to something greater. John is saying that this is the end of the symbols and what is real is about to come. Ritual will be replaced by Relationship with God himself.*

**4. Describe the scene of the baptism of Jesus. Who is there? How is God manifested? Why did Jesus get baptized by John... isn't baptism for the repentance of sin?**

*Jesus goes to the Jordan River where John is baptizing and enters the water. When he comes up out of the water, the Spirit descends in the form of a dove and a voice speaks from heaven — "You are my Son..." Notice that all three members of the Trinity are present — the Father speaking, The Son in the water and the Spirit descending. Have*

*the group talk about what the purpose of baptism is and why Jesus was being baptized. We will talk about it in the large group.*

**5. Immediately following the baptism, Jesus is sent out by the Spirit into the wilderness. Describe the scene, who is there?**

*The temptation of Jesus is much shorter in this gospel than in Matthew and Luke. We have the Spirit of God, Jesus, Satan, the wild animals and the angels. This reminds us of the cast of characters in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3. Jesus is taking the test that Adam failed.*

**6. What is the Good News? What does it mean to you?**

*Have the group talk about what the Gospel is. Let them define it and talk about how the good news has affected their life.*

**7. The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom has come. How is the timing finally right?**

*After waiting so long — the entire Old Testament and then 400 years until the opening of the New Testament — how is the time now finally right? Have the group think about this and how God has his time for everything.*

**8. “Repent and Believe” This is Jesus’ message. Why are both of these elements important?**

*Repent means to turn around from your sin and go in a new direction. This is where it begins. We must stop doing what God has commanded us not to do. But it is not good enough to just stop doing what is wrong. You must believe in Jesus, who is the manifestation of the nature and character of God. There is always two sides to the coin. One is to stop going in the wrong direction and the other is start going in the right direction. You can’t just do one. If you stop doing evil but don’t follow the LORD you still won’t be part of the Kingdom. If you just believe in Jesus but don’t stop pursuing evil, you will not be part of the Kingdom. Both are important.*